First Congregational
United Church of Christ

111 S. Wallace Blvd. Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(Mailing Address: P.O. Box 980413 Ypsilanti, MI 48198)
www.ypsiucc.org

An open and affirming community committed to peace and justice

April 3, 2022
10:00 am

"Something New"
5th Sunday in Lent
Ramadan Begins

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!

WORSHIP ON ZOOM -- Zoom opens at 9:30 am Sunday morning.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7643282234

Meeting ID: 764 328 2234
Passcode: Ypsi1882
To join by phone, dial the number, 1-312-626-6799

- Welcome to Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC's Zoom Worship Service
- Hymns are included in the worship bulletin. A separate hymnal is not needed.
- If you are joining worship for the first-time on Zoom, please add your name and email to the chat so the Zoomie Greeter can introduce you.
- Thank you for choosing to worship with us today!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING COVENANT OF
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Ypsilanti celebrates everyone, including people of all ages, races, cultures, sexual orientations, gender identifies and expressions, family configurations, economic circumstances, physical, cognitive or emotional abilities, education or spiritual or religious traditions. All are welcome to participate fully in the life, leadership, ministry, and missions of this church as we seek to grow together in a safe, nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that "NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!"

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Start Zoom Recoding to Cloud **ERIC BANITT**
"As the Deer", arr. Mark Hayes

RINGING THE BELL **MARTY KLEINO**

WELCOME **PASTOR LIZ**

- A warm welcome to all, including first-time visitors.
- As stated in our Open and Affirming Covenant (previous page), all persons are welcome in this community of faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS **IVAN HARNER**

- **COMMUNITY SHARING OF OTHER ANNOUNCMENTS:**
  - The Worship Leader will introduce Roomie Greeter, **Patty Sherwood**, and Zoomie greeter, **Ellie Gusman**.
  - The Greeters will introduce folks participating in worship.
  - Please share your announcements so everyone can learn what is happening in our beloved ministry community.
  - If you are a Roomie, please come to the pulpit/podium to make your announcement or use the handheld microphone offered by the Roomie Greeter so all can hear. Please do the same when offering a prayer request.
  - **Today we will be celebrating folks with a birthday in the month of April.**
  - **This is the first Sunday of the month; we will be sharing communion during this service.**
  - **If you are worshiping as a Zoomie, please gather your own elements. Creativity is a blessing.**
  - **If you are worshiping as a Roomie, please bring your own elements or pick-up the pre-packaged elements on the table near the entrance.**
  - **If using the pre-packaged elements, remove the white paper covering one side at a time—beginning with the wafer side. After eating the bread, flip over and open the juice side.**
  - Please submit written announcements to Margaret Harner, Worship Coordinator, margaretsharner@gmail.com, by midnight on Tuesday.

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN *Microphone mute *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Children of God"
195 SING

CALL TO WORSHIP **IVAN HARNER**

Leader: God's spirit is moving among us; give thanks! Our God is about to do a new thing in our midst.

People: How good it is to be chosen by God; we gather to sing our praises and thanks.

Leader: God has done great things for us; we are glad! Now God is pointing us towards new goals.

People: We are waiting to hear what God would have us do; we are ready to risk new behaviors to be faithful.

Leader: Into the wilderness of our lives comes living water. Into the sorrow of our days comes reason for joy.

People: Forgetting what lies behind, we greet our future; we press on, responding to the upward call of Christ.

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Out of the Depths, O God, We Call"
554 NCH

LISTENING FOR GOD

FIRST READING **Isaiah 43:18-21** **IVAN HARNER**

SECOND READING **John 12:1-8** **PASTOR LIZ**

HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"
553 NCH

MORNING MESSAGE **"Something New"** **PASTOR LIZ**

CONVERSING WITH THE HOLY ONE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pause Zoom recording

*Zoomies: Please turn on your microphone

*Roomies: Please come to the pulpit/podium or use the hand-held microphone so all can hear.

You are invited to share your joys and petitions for prayer.
Please unmute your microphone to share a joy or make a prayer of petition.
At the end of each joy or petition, please say **"God in your mercy"**
We will respond (with microphones muted) **"Hear our prayers"**

PASTORAL PRAYER *Restart Zoom recording **PASTOR LIZ**

DISCIPLES' PRAYER (Unison) *Microphone muted **PASTOR LIZ**

Our Parent, who is in the world and surpasses the world,
Blessed be your presence in us,
In animals and flowers, in still air and in moving wind.
May justice and peace dwell among us, as you come to us.
Your will be our will.
You will that we be siblings,
As bread is bread, water is itself, for our hunger, for the quenching of thirst.
We walk crookedly in the world and fail of our promise. Forgive us.
Stir up our hearts, that we would be empathetic and compassionate. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY INVITATION **PASTOR LIZ**

Our electronic giving platform is Tithe.ly: Link to Tithe.ly

Checks can be mailed to:
First Congregational United Church of Christ
PO Box 980413, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY **"Holy Manna",** arr. Paul A, Tate **ERIC BANITT**

DOXOLOGY *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Jesus, Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child" 136 NCH

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy meek and mild.
New life, new hope the Child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing,
"Glory, glory, glory," let the heavens ring!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *Unison with Microphone muted **IVAN HARNER**

**Beneficent God, we are glad for all the good things you have done for us.
We count everything as loss before the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ.
Receive our costly offerings and our best efforts, here dedicated for your use.
May Christ be proclaimed, and the poor be saved from terrors of suffering and neglect. Fill the hearts of all your children with laughter and joy.
To that end, bless our offerings. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table"

COMMUNION SERVICE **PASTOR LIZ**

No matter who you are and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at Christ's table!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING **PASTOR LIZ**

DEPARTING WITH PRAISE

CLOSING HYMN *Microphone muted *Standing is optional **TIFFANIE WALDRON**

"Over My Head"
514 NCH

BENEDICTION (RESPONSIVE) **PASTOR LIZ**

Leader: The spirit of God sends us forth, a thankful people; God goes with us, accomplishing new things among us.

People: We are God's chosen people, appointed for service. May our lives proclaim our thanks and praise.

Leader: The great things God has done for us inspire our work. We stretch and strive to reach new goals.

People: Day by day, we will listen for a new word from God; hour by hour, we will dare to be faithful to God's call.

Leader: God will feed our hunger and quench our thirst and will comfort us in our need and uplift us.

People: God's praise will continually be on our lips. We will embrace God's future as we seek to follow Christ.

Leader: Amen.

People: Amen.

POSTLUDE *Please remain seated **ERIC BANITT**

"Praise the Greatness, arr, Mark Hayes

PASSING THE PEACE **FRIENDS GATHERED**

- Share a greeting with others as we transition to our casual **Friendship Time.**

Hybrid (In-person & Zoom) Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Rev. Liz Larrivee, Pastor & Spiritual Director
Tiffanie Waldron, Music Director
Eric Banitt, Accompanist

Jenn Zibbell, Seminary Intern
Ivan Harner, Worship Leader
Patty Sherwood, Roomie Greeter
Ellie Gusman Zoomie Greeter
Marty Kleino, Usher & Bell Ringer
Wayne Burling, Technical Coordinator
Covid Health Advisor, Patty Sherwood

YPSILANTI FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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734-482-6980
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ATTRIBUTIONS FOR TODAY'S BULLETIN

- **Cover Art:**
- **Call to Worship and Prayer of Dedication:** Adapted from *Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler, 2001.
- **Disciples Prayer:** Adapted from the Rev. Susan A. Blain, who, on September 11, 2001, was the worship coordinator of Riverside Church in New York City, and now serves as the Minister for Worship, Liturgy, and Spiritual Formation at the United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio. Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, UCC. ucc.org/worship-ways
- **Benediction:** Adapted from *Gathered by Love: Worship Resources for Year C* by Lavon Bayler, 2001.
- **Hymn Profiles:** *The New Century Hymnal Companion.* Pilgrim Press 1999.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April Birthdays:
This morning we celebrate folks with a birthday during the month of April as our Music Director, Tiffanie Waldron leads us in singing "Happy Birthday." Those folks whose names are in church records with an April birthday are:

- Deloris Emerson
- Ron Horvath
- Barbara Garland
- Wanda Wysor
- Brad Turner

If you have an April Birthday, or are a recent addition to this congregation, and would like to be included on this list, please tell Patty Sherwood, Clerk, psherwood48@comcast.net so we can update our records and add you to this time of joyous celebration.

YFC UCC Community Lenten Discernment Gatherings

God is still speaking in this time. It is up to us to listen.

- **Cliff Notes Version:**

Pastor Liz invites all to attend a series of 7-Week Community Lenten Discernment Gatherings to listen for who the Spirit is calling us to be--and the ministry we are being called to do—as we serve together in covenant relationship following the Way of Jesus.

Week #2 Community Discernment Gatherings are scheduled for:

- **Today, Sunday, April 3--Sidetracks in Ypsilanti from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm** in the private dining room (near the back porch) 52 E Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198. https://www.sidetrackbarandgrill.com/
- **Tuesday, April 5--Zoom Only from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm** using the church zoom meeting number.
- **We will be covering Chapter 2 (Pg 23-47): "Leading with Presence—Holding Steady"** from Susan Beaumont's *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season.*

Additional Information:
These Community Lenten Discernment Gatherings are being held each week. The last gathering will occur on May 10th. We will be discussing the small, but powerful book selected by the UCC MI Conference Vital Growth Mission Area Team for the recent 2022 Vitality Day attended by Pastor Liz: ***How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*** by inter-denominational faith-based consultant, coach and spiritual director Susan Beaumont.

Since adult learners have different learning styles, some folks may prefer to participate in the gatherings without reading the book. This is fine. For those who want to read the book, but

despite best intentions to complete the week's reading find themselves crunched for time--scanning the headings, visuals, and bullet points will be helpful preparation. In general, however, our community discernment and learning process will be greatly enhanced the more folks do the work of reading and reflecting on each chapter prior to attending the gatherings. If you would like the church to purchase a book for you, please let Donna know and she will order a copy (deyster63@gmail.com). If you prefer to purchase your own book to reduce the church's annual operating expenses, please do so.

To provide as many opportunities for folks to participate in this community transforming work as possible—and realizing that compromises will always need to be made—each week Pastor Liz will host two gatherings to do this important work. Please attend the one that best fits your busy schedule. If you miss the gathering you usually attend, please attend a different gathering held that week covering the same material. **If you feel inspired--Pastor Liz invites you to attend both gatherings during the week in order to support the cross-pollination of discernment insights between both gatherings.**

Participants are encouraged to follow their conscience in relation to their unique health risk status when deciding which gatherings to attend and whether to wear a mask. The Sunday in-person gathering includes the option to purchase food and/or beverages and share in-person friendship time.

Thank you for gifting our church with your spiritual gifts, life energy and time during this Lenten season of our lives together.

Worship Next Week April 10: Patty Sherwood, Worship Leader; Sue Schuon, Roomie Greeter and Dan Kidder-McQuown, Zoomie Greeter. Interested in serving as a Worship Leader or Greeter, contact Margaret Harner at margaretsharner@gmail.com

Congratulations Member In Discernment and Guest Preacher Jenn Zibbell!: Jenn will be serving as our guest preacher on April 24. Jenn has been officially accepted by the Covenant Association as a UCC Member in Discernment (MID) discerning a call to ordained ministry. We look forward to supporting and journeying alongside Jenn as she travels the challenging and rewarding path of discerning God's call on her life. Thank you, Jenn, for the generous sharing of your creativity, faith, and spiritual gifts with our faith community.

Next Worship Team Meeting: The Worship Team Meeting is on pause through May 10 to give folks time to attend one of the Community Lenten Discernment Gatherings each week.

Next Church Council Meeting: Monday, April 11 at noon on Zoom

Summer Zoom Only Worship: Church Council made the decision to move to Zoom Only Sunday worship (no in-person) for the summer beginning May 29 through September 11.

Fall Hybrid Worship Kick-Off Sunday: September 18. Combined Zoom and in- person worship will resume in our sanctuary on Sunday, September 18 at 10:00 am.

Fall Pet Blessing Ceremony: September 25 at 2:00 pm: This fun family and pet friendly service will be held outdoors (weather permitting) in the park next to the church. UCC

Member in Discernment (MID) and Seminary Intern, Jenn Zibbell, is team leader for this service. Please contact Jenn if you would like to help with planning and hosting. More details will be announced over the summent.

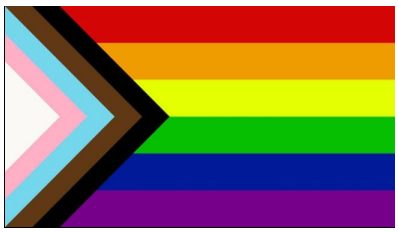
Kroger Fundraiser: Have you registered your Kroger card? We get a small check every quarter forpurchases made using your card when it's registered. It's a simple process. Go to Kroger.com and click "**Register**" and follow the prompts to register your frequent shopper card number. Then link tothe **Community Rewards** site and register with our church. Our number is **83262**, or you can find our name in the drop-down list. Any Questions: contact Barbara Garland at bargarland@yahoo.comor 734-662-5803.

International Transgender Day of Visibility: March 31st was International Transgender Day of Visibility. As a ONA congregation, we celebrate the many UCC trans and nonbinary leaders serving on the front lines of faith, justice and equality in their communities and in the wider world. Here are a few of these prophets among us.

- Marissa Miller, a member of Community Church-UCC, Washington DC, founding executive director of the National Trans Visibility March, in its 4th year of advancing the rights of trans and nonbinary individuals.
- Rev. Justin Sabia-Tanis, theologian, pastor, author and activist, Assistant Professor at UCC United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, MN.
- Barbara Satin, 87, UCC lay leader from Minneapolis, working since for the rights of trans people in a number of settings, including securing housing for elderly queer people.
- Rev Malcolm Hischoot, UCC pastor of Church of Universal Fellowship, Orono, Maine.

Progress Pride Flag, designed by Daniel Quasar, 2018, and he writes *the flag below explicitly includes Black, Brown and Trans colors. Without those groups we would not have Pride today.*

The inclusive flag, which includes black and brown stripes representing people of color, as well as pink, white, and blue stripes in a nod to the Trans Pride banner. The flag was designed by Portland, Oregon-based artist Daniel Quasar in 2018 following a successful Kickstarter campaign.



https://www.them.us/story/ipride-flag-redesign-black-brown-trans-pride-stripes

OUR CHURCH'S MISSIONS

THE BEACON CENTER

The **Beacon Center** is the newest community social justice of the Ypsilanti First Congregational UCC. As a light to all persons, the Beacon Center's ministry will support the spiritual formation, creative expression, overall thriving and advocacy of at-risk students of all ages, including those affiliated with three primary local institutions of higher learning: Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College and University of Michigan. In the Spirit of the UCC moto, "That They All Shall Be One", Beacon Center serves as a uniting and unifying umbrella across our congregation serving persons sources through our three other community social justice ministry networks. Those ministries (each detailed below) include WICIR (Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights) serving the immigrant communities, MI-ONA (Michigan Open and Affirming Coalition) serving LGTBQ+ persons, and WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition) which brings together faith, labor and community organizations to address local issues.

The Beacon Center is committed to advocate for self-determination and education for all people, especially students living in poverty, persons of color experiencing racism, and other de-humanizing circumstances and conditions. Beacon Center's student demographics include persons of color, immigrants, minorities, LGTBQ+ folk, women, those with special needs, the economically disadvantaged, those facing housing insecurity, the financially challenged, and the working poor. For additional information on the Beacon Center, please contact Rev. Liz Larrivee at lizlarrivee@gmail.com

IMMIGRATION MINISTRY – WASHTENAW INTERFAITH COALITION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS (WICIR)

Since 2008, **WICIR** has been working with, and in support of, immigrants in Washtenaw County facing challenges of many kinds. At our inception the primary need that brought us together was to support people facing enforcement action by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); most often detention, deportation, and removal. To date, WICIR has responded to 650 calls. Always in partnership with folks most affected, many actions and services have evolved as identified by our immigrant siblings, while always keeping focused on our original mission:

To provide culturally sensitive and supportive urgent response to those in Washtenaw County in immigration-related crises; impact local governmental policies to empower and protect immigrant community members; and work toward humane national immigration reform.

Our outreach has been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many in immigrant communities have experienced significant challenges as they struggle to pay

rent, provide food for their families and other basic survival needs. To respond, WICIR, in partnership with Mexiquenses in Michigan (from St. Francis of Assisi Parish), has raised and distributed $200,000 relief funds to immigrants and their families. We have a waiting list of those still in need and will continue this effort as funds are available.

For information about what's happening with immigrant rights and **Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights**, or if you are interested in learning ways to help, please contact Melanie Harner at melharner@gmail.com or through the WICIR website: https://wicir.org/. You can also find a link on the church website.

MICHIGAN OPEN & AFFIRMING COALITION

The Coalition brings together Michigan Conference UCC churches that have declared themselves to be Open and Affirming of people of all gender identities. For information about what's happening with **Michigan Open & Affirming Coalition**, or if you are interested in joining, please contact Wayne Burling (734-377-0696). More information can be found on their website http://www.mi-ona.org or on Facebook (http://www.facebook.com/groups/onami). You can also find a link on the church website.

WASHTENAW REGIONAL ORGANIZING COALITION

First Congregational is a founding institution of the local "organization of organizations" **WeROC (Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition)**. In many ways, WeROC is a larger illustration of the values and mission we try to live out at First Congregational. WeROC members are, at our core, focused on intentionally re-weaving the frayed fabric of community at a time when forces are at work every day to keep us fragmented, suspicious of each other, feeling isolated. Especially in this time when so many are being hit by the health and economic crises, WeROC's focus on raising voices of those most affected is more important than ever (See COVID-19 Resources at www.werocmi.org) WeROC's Mission Statement is:

WeROC brings together faith, labor, community organizations, and individuals to build the healthy collective power needed to break down the systems that sustain injustice, racism, and economic inequality.

WeROC is affiliated with the Detroit Metro organization MOSES and the Gamliel National Network. Contact Tad Wysor at tadwysor@gmail.com or 734-883-3225.

This past election year showed us good things can happen when we're working together in the same direction. WeROC is moving rapidly **forward** to keep momentum going and find ways to continue to be more effective together in making our communities healthier and more vibrant places; improving the lives of *everyone* in big ways-- especially those who are most vulnerable and whose voice have seldom been heard.

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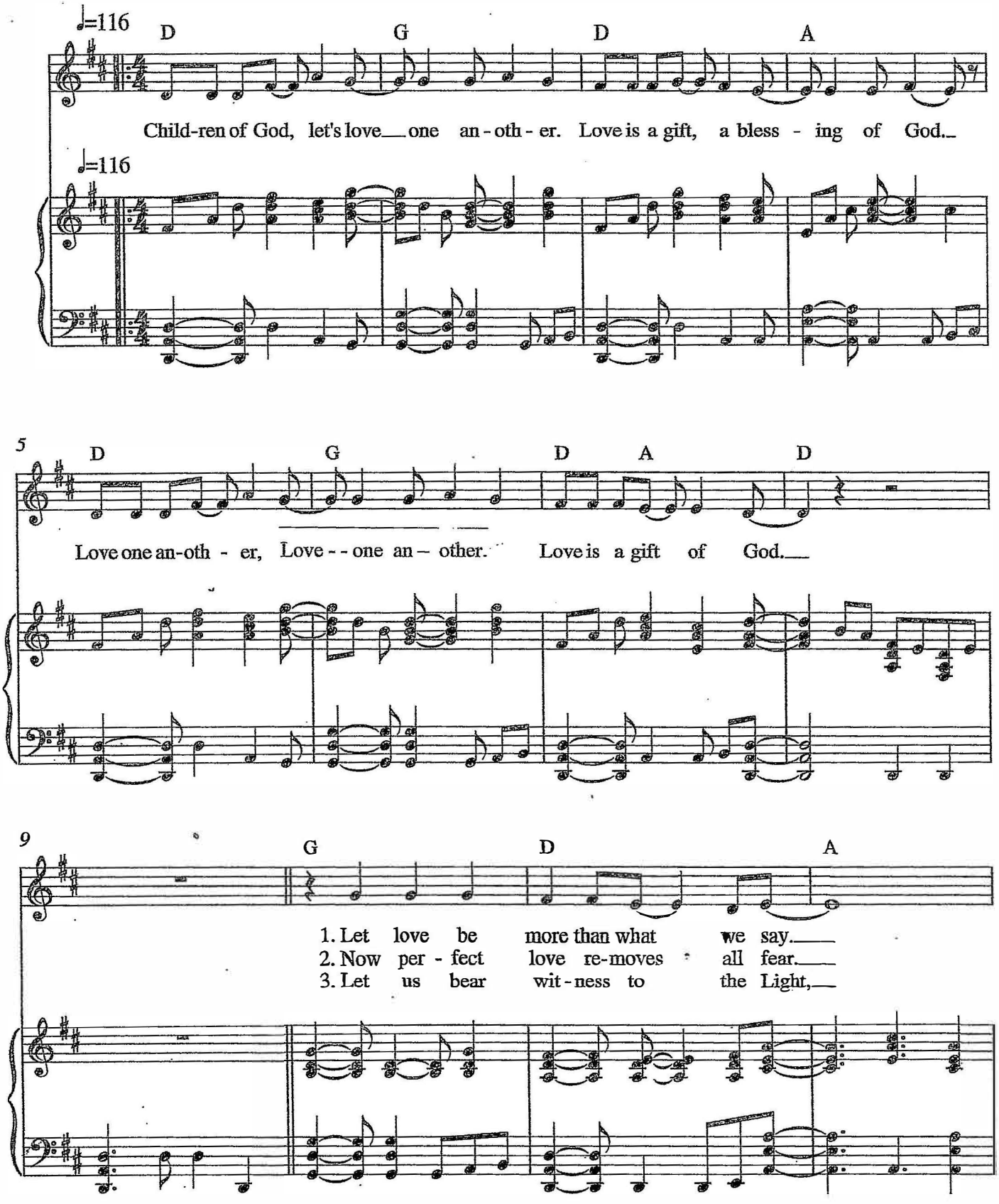
Children of God

♩=116
D G D A
Child-ren of God, let's love one an-oth-er. Love is a gift, a bless-ing of God.
♩=116
5
D G D A D
Love one an-oth-er, Love--one an-other. Love is a gift of God.
9
G D A
1. Let love be more than what we say.
2. Now per-fect love re-moves all fear.
3. Let us bear wit-ness to the Light,

Words and Music: James F.D. Martin, Copyright ©2006. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

2

13 G D Em A D/A A9

1.2.

Make it the way that we live each day. Oh, oh,
By this we know God is al - ways near. Oh, oh,
liv - ing in love, do - ing what is right.

18 A D/A A9 D G D

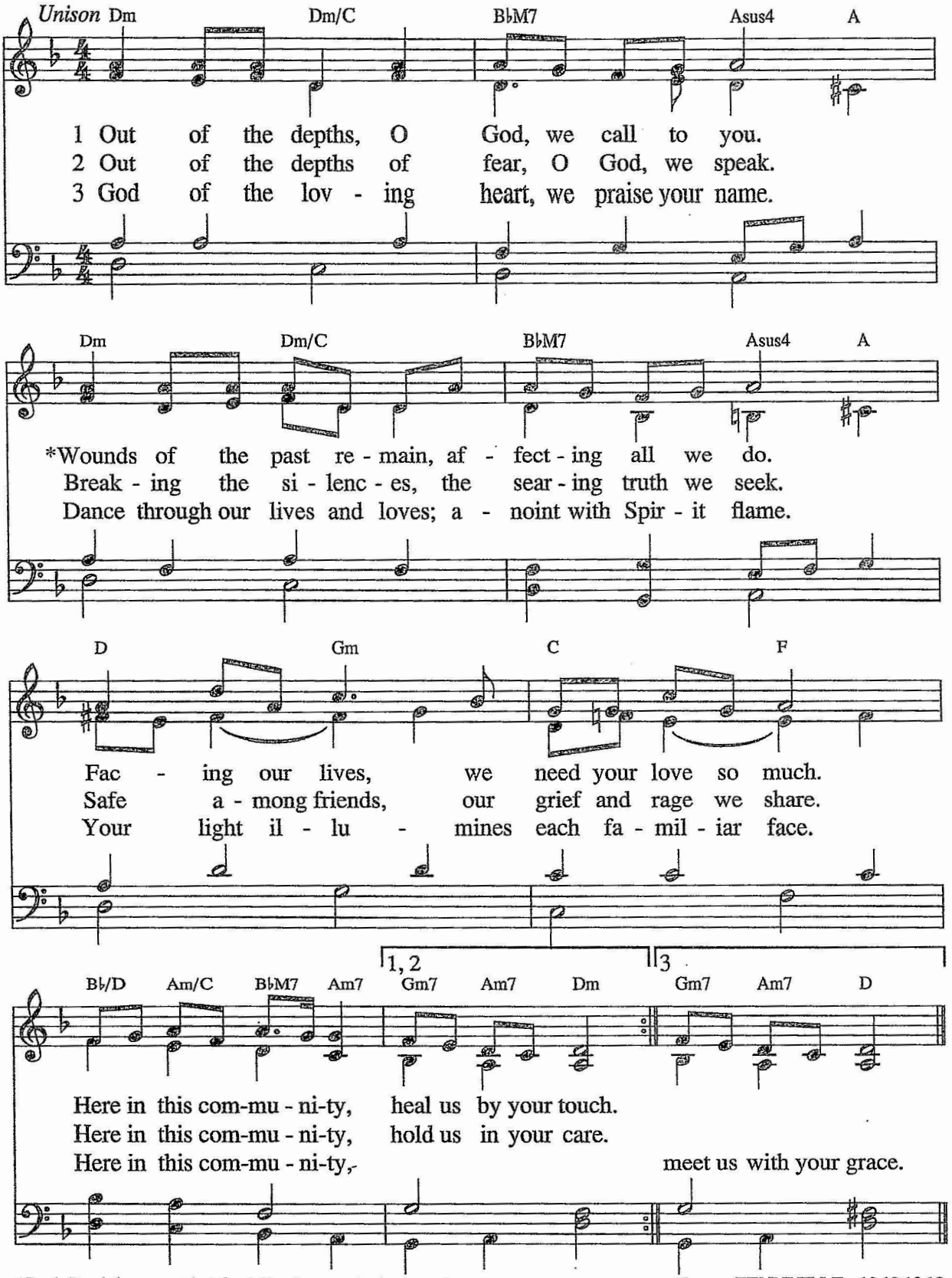
3.

— Oh, oh, Child-ren of God, let's love one an - oth - er. Love is a gift, a bless-

22 A D G D A D

-ing of God. Love one an-oth - er, Love - - one an - other. Love is a gift of God.

Out of the Depths, O God, We Call 554

Ruth Duck, 1988 *Ps. 130:1–8*

Unison Dm Dm/C B♭M7 Asus4 A
1 Out of the depths, O God, we call to you.
2 Out of the depths of fear, O God, we speak.
3 God of the lov - ing heart, we praise your name.
Dm Dm/C B♭M7 Asus4 A
*Wounds of the past re - main, af - fect - ing all we do.
Break - ing the si - lenc - es, the sear - ing truth we seek.
Dance through our lives and loves; a - noint with Spir - it flame.
D Gm C F
Fac - ing our lives, we need your love so much.
Safe a - mong friends, our grief and rage we share.
Your light il - lu - mines each fa - mil - iar face.
1, 2 3
B♭/D Am/C B♭M7 Am7 Gm7 Am7 Dm Gm7 Am7 D
Here in this com-mu - ni-ty, heal us by your touch.
Here in this com-mu - ni-ty, hold us in your care.
Here in this com-mu - ni-ty, meet us with your grace.

Tune: FENNVILLE 10.12.10.12.
Robert J. Batastini, 1994

**Ruth Duck has provided the following words that may be substituted for those who are seriously ill:*

Free us from fear of death, our faith and hope re-new. . . .

or, for those who have been abused:

Wounds of a-buse re-main, af-fect-ing all we do. . . .

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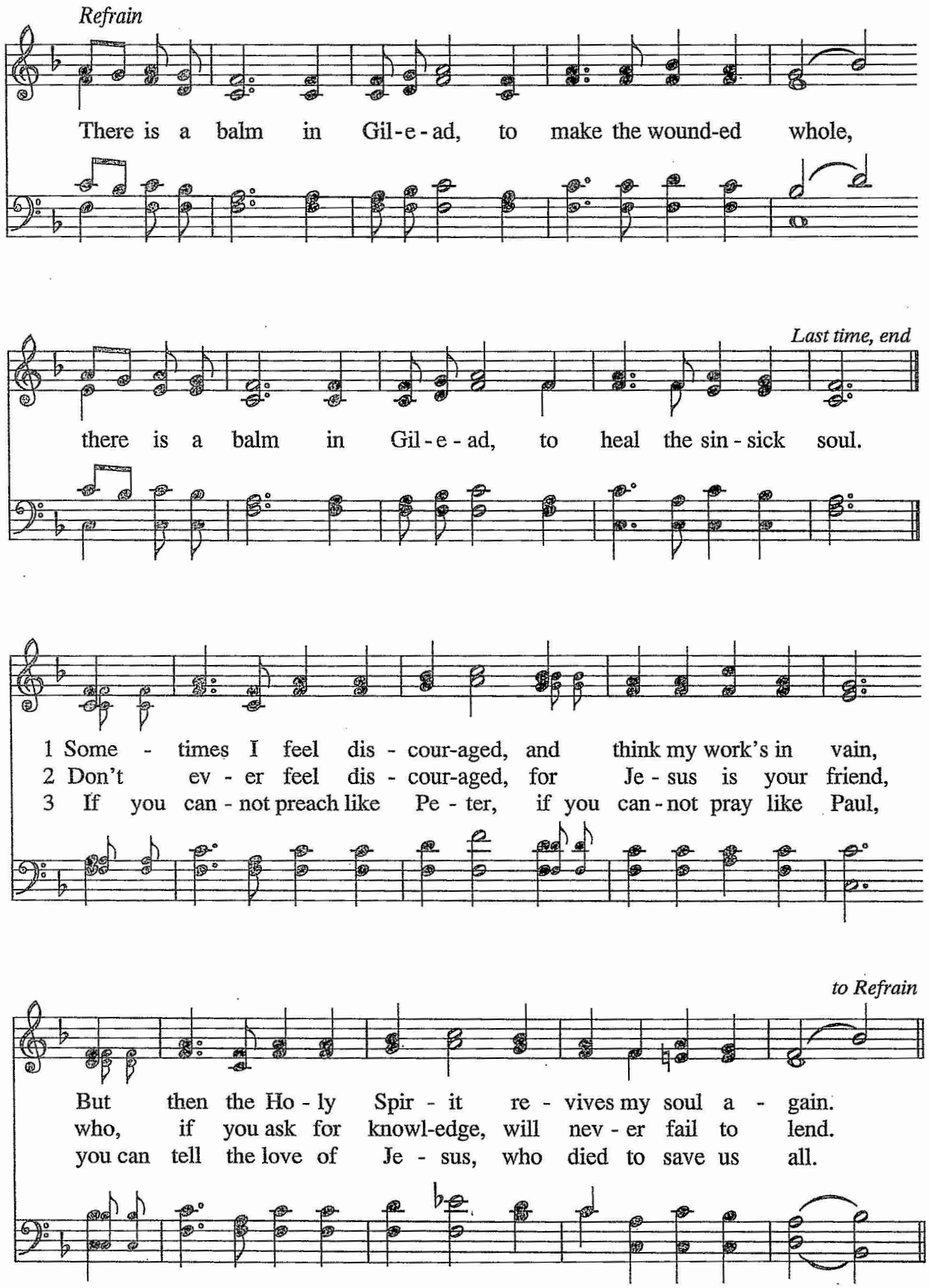
553 There Is a Balm in Gilead

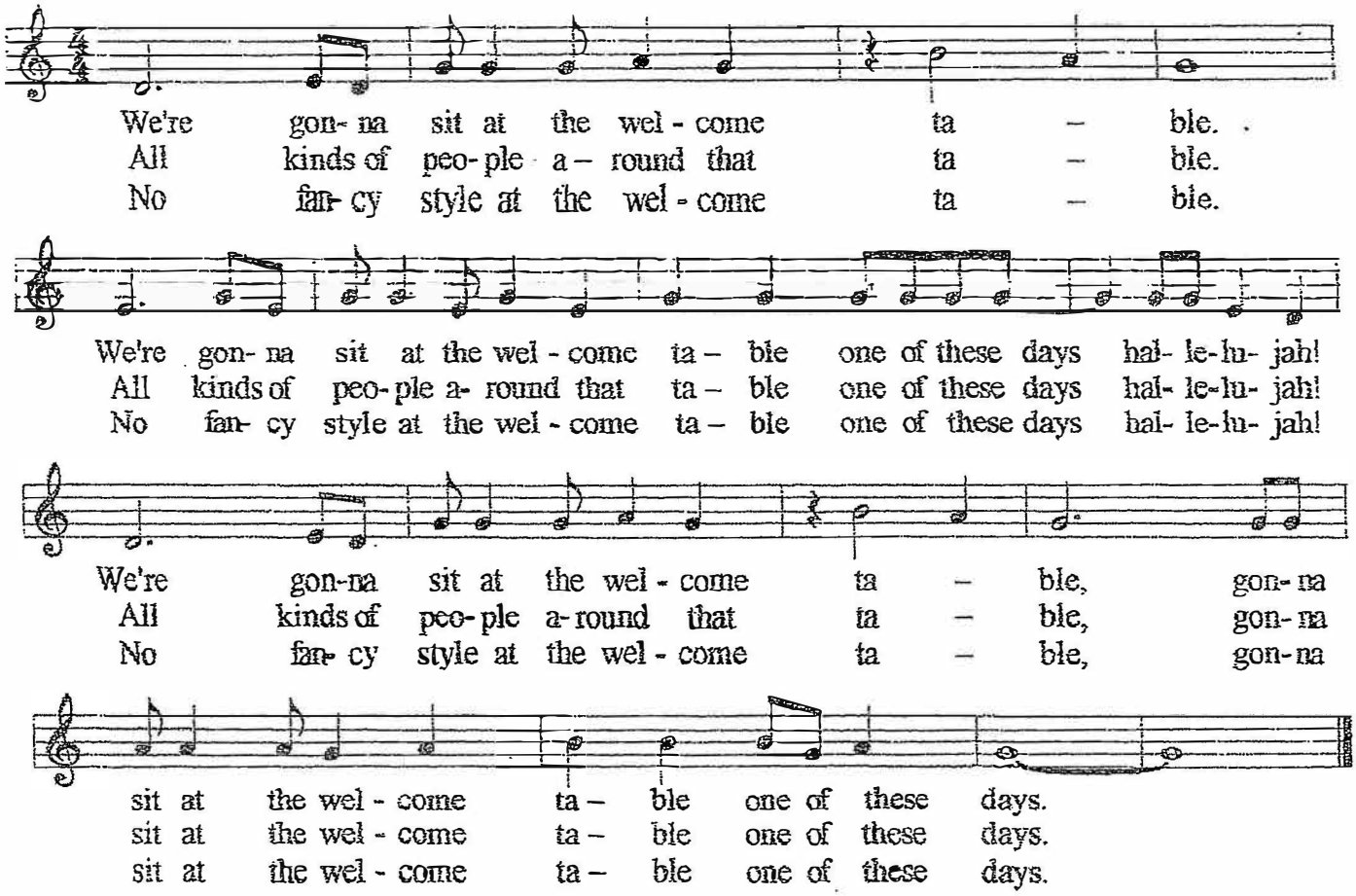
Jer. 8:18–22; 46:11; Acts 10:34–43

African-American spiritual; alt.

Refrain
There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,
Last time, end
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.
1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
2 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend,
3 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul,
to Refrain
But then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain.
who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev-er fail to lend.
you can tell the love of Je-sus, who died to save us all.

This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain
African-American spiritual

We're Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table


We're gon- na sit at the wel - come ta – ble.
All kinds of peo- ple a – round that ta – ble.
No fan- cy style at the wel - come ta – ble.
We're gon- na sit at the wel - come ta – ble one of these days hal- le-lu- jah!
All kinds of peo- ple a- round that ta – ble one of these days hal- le-lu- jah!
No fan- cy style at the wel - come ta – ble one of these days hal- le-lu- jah!
We're gon-na sit at the wel - come ta – ble, gon- na
All kinds of peo- ple a-round that ta – ble, gon- na
No fan- cy style at the wel - come ta – ble, gon-na
sit at the wel - come ta – ble one of these days.
sit at the wel - come ta – ble one of these days.
sit at the wel - come ta – ble one of these days.

This song is an adaptation of the African American Spiritual/ Gospel of the same title. Sung originally by slaves, *The Welcome Table* refers to being in Heaven. It became popular again during the civil rights movement and particularly alludes to the sit-in protests at lunch counters in public facilities where Black people were refused service. In 1964 it became part of a play written by students of the McComb Mississipps, Freedom School. In that play additional verses were added specifically for the lunch counter sit-ins- *I'm gonna get my civil rights* and *I'm gonna sit a the Woolworth counter*. Throughout time many verses have been added as circumstances changed.

In McComb a group of young teenagers organized a program to help older African Americans learn how to complete voter registration cards, and all across the state, young, black Freedom School students conducted sit-ins at local libraries, restaurants, and department stores to test the newly passed Civil Rights Act of 1964. Many of these developing leaders helped guide the direction of local protests after the outside volunteers left the state at the conclusion of Freedom Summer.

This was used at UCC General Synod 19 or 20 and is used with permission.

Given the insurregence of white supremacy and efforts to erode voting rights, what learned researching ***I'm Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table*** seemed particularly relevant and worth sharing. *Margaret Harner*

Dr. William Sturkey is an assistant professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His work has appeared in the Journal of Mississippi History *and the* Journal of African American History. *He, along with Dr. Jon N. Hale, assistant professor at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, edited* To Write in the Light of Freedom: The Newspapers of the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Schools.

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Since the song was apparently composed by slaves, and later modified for use in the Civil Rights movement, here's an interesting painting of a 'Welcome Table' that seems appropriate.

A famous African-American art print by Cornell Barnes featuring an interpretation of the Last Supper that has a Black Jesus Christ with the following famous African-American legends sitting at the table instead of the twelve disciples: Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Mary McLeod Bethune, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Paul Robeson, Nat Turner, Noble Drew Ali, Kwame Nkrumah, Elijah Muhammad and Judas. https://www.blackartdepot.com/products/the-last-supper-by-cornell-barnes

Freedom Schools: The1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer was perhaps the most ambitious extended campaign of the entire Civil Rights Movement. Over the course of roughly two months, more than 1,000 volunteers arrived in Mississippi to help draw media attention to the state's black freedom movement, to register African American voters, and teach in Freedom Schools, that established to supplement the inferior educational opportunities provided to black youths in the state's public schools.

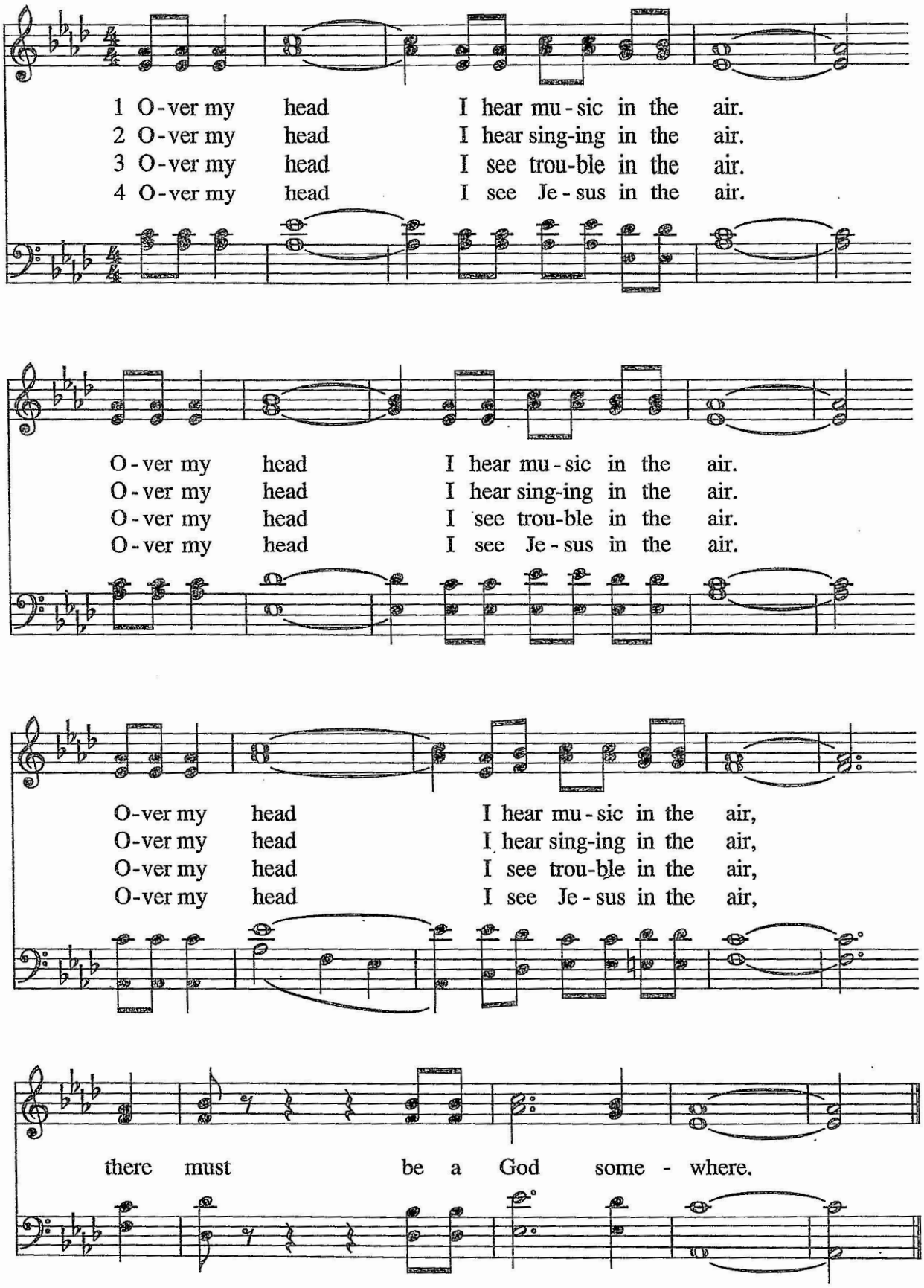
Ten years after the decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), most Southern school districts remained racially segregated due to massive white resistance and the federal government's delay in clearly defining and enforcing the process of the racial integration of the nation's public schools.

The 1964 Mississippi Freedom Schools opened on July 2, the same day President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act. Freedom School organizers had initially planned for about 1,000 students, but by the end of the summer, the schools drew an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 students. All told, at least forty-one Freedom Schools operated across Mississippi during the 1964 Freedom Summer. Students ranged in age from five to eighty, but most were between ten and eighteen years-old. In McComb, a group of young teenagers organized a program to help older African Americans learn how to complete voter registration cards, and all across the state, young, black Freedom School students conducted sit-ins at local libraries, restaurants, and department stores to test the newly passed Civil Rights Act of 1964. Many of these developing leaders helped guide the direction of local protests after many of the outside volunteers left the state at the conclusion of Freedom Summer.

Over My Head

514

African-American traditional


1 O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air.
2 O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air.
3 O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air.
4 O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air.
O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air.
O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air.
O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air.
O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air.
O-ver my head I hear mu-sic in the air,
O-ver my head I hear sing-ing in the air,
O-ver my head I see trou-ble in the air,
O-ver my head I see Je-sus in the air,
there must be a God some-where.

This African-American spiritual was widely sung during the 1960s folk-song movement. It was also a freedom song for the civil rights struggle and sometimes included the stanza: "Over my head I see freedom in the air."

Tune: African-American traditional
Arr. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981